

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method of monitoring the use of a chargeable dynamic signaling port of a trunk connecting two exchanges, wherein applications communicate via said exchanges and use said port, said method comprising:

assigning rights of use, of a chargeable dynamic signaling port of a trunk connecting two exchanges, to ~~an~~ a current application, wherein said chargeable dynamic signaling port is set up and deactivated on demand; and

if said chargeable dynamic signaling port has not been activated or has been deactivated, either setting up an assigned chargeable dynamic signaling port, of said trunk connecting two exchanges, for use by said current application, or

if said chargeable dynamic signaling port has already been set up by another application, making an assigned chargeable dynamic signaling port available for immediate use only by said current application.

2. (currently amended): The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising informing applications likely to require to use a chargeable dynamic signaling port that said assigned chargeable dynamic signaling port has been set up to enable said informed applications to use said assigned chargeable dynamic signaling port.

3. (currently amended): ~~The method claimed in claim 1,~~ A method of monitoring the use of a chargeable dynamic signaling port of a trunk connecting two exchanges, wherein applications communicate via said exchanges and use said port, said method comprising:

assigning rights of use, of a chargeable dynamic signaling port of a trunk connecting two exchanges, to an application, wherein said chargeable dynamic signaling port is set up and deactivated on demand; and

if said chargeable dynamic signaling port has not been activated or has been deactivated, setting up an assigned chargeable dynamic signaling port, of said trunk connecting two exchanges, for use by said application, or

if said chargeable dynamic signaling port has already been set up, making an assigned chargeable dynamic signaling port available for immediate use only by said application;

wherein the right assigned to an application is monitored, in an exchange initiating a call request, to set up a call via said chargeable dynamic signaling port, and wherein the same application has a different right according to the exchange from which the setting up of a call is initiated.

4. (currently amended): The method claimed in claim ~~1-1,~~ wherein said assigning rights of use assigns said rights of use of said chargeable dynamic signaling port in variable time periods.

5. (previously presented): The method claimed in claim 3, wherein the right assigned to each application is stored in a data base for the exchange initiating the call request.